

English Language and English for Academic Purposes Unit Standards

Supporting Document – Draft for consultation – August 2025

Section Two: English Language Pathways

English Language and Literacy Pathways in the secondary sector

English Language Pathways and the New Zealand Certificate in English Language in the tertiary sector

English Language and English for Academic Purposes Unit Standards

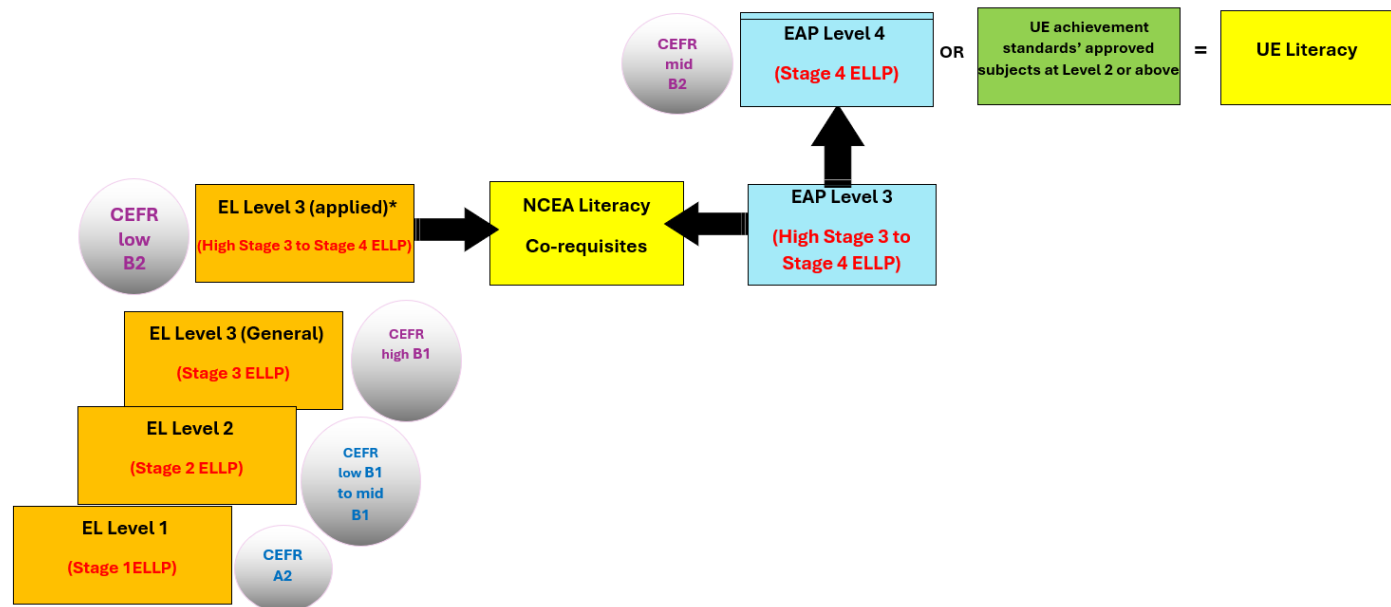
English Language Pathways

This section shows the English Language pathways for both secondary and tertiary.

English Language and Literacy Pathways in the secondary sector

The English Language (EL) and the English for Academic Purposes (EAP) unit standards offer an additional literacy pathway for learners who will require targeted ESOL support from Year 9 to Year 13.

The flow chart below shows how these standards can be used as building blocks towards the [NCEA Literacy co-requisites](#), as well as [University Entrance literacy](#) requirements. It also shows the relationships between the EL and EAP unit standards and the [English Language Learning Progressions \(ELLP\)](#) stages and [Common European Framework of Reference for Languages \(CEFR\)](#) levels.



Level 1 English Language (EL) unit standards

- are at a level informed by two Common European Framework Reference (CEFR) levels – A1 for learners at Foundation Stage ELLP and A2 for learners at Stage 1 Language Learning Progressions (ELLP).

Level 2 unit standards

- are at a level informed by CEFR Level low B1 to mid B1 for learners at Stage 2 ELLP.

Level 3 unit standards - General and Applied

- General unit standards are at a level informed by CEFR Level High B1 for learners at Stage 3.
- Applied unit standards are at a level informed by CEFR Level low B2 for learners at High Stage 3 to Stage 4.

The English for Academic Purposes (EAP)

- Level 3 unit standards are at a level informed by CEFR Level low B2 for learners at High Stage 3 to Stage 4 ELLP.
- Level 4 EAP unit standards are at a level informed by CEFR Level mid B2 for learners at Stage 4 ELLP.

Two Level 3 EAP unit standards have been approved for English language learners with current or historic ESOL funding and international fee-paying students for the NCEA co-requisites for literacy during the transition period (2024-2027). These are:

30507 – Write a short text under test conditions in English for an academic purpose (5 credits)

30511 – Read and process information on a familiar topic in English for academic purposes (6 credits)

See: [Approved standards for literacy for the 2024-2027 transition period](#).

Three Level 4 EAP unit standards are approved for University Entrance Literacy. These are:

22749 – Write a text under test conditions in English for an academic purpose (5 credits)

22750 – Write a crafted text using researched material in English for an academic purpose (6 credits)

22751 – Read and process information in English for an academic purpose (6 credits)

Please note that 22750 counts for reading and writing while 22749 is only for writing and 22751 is only for reading. For example, a learner could achieve 22750 and use this for their University Entrance reading credits. Then, they would need to achieve 22749 for their University Entrance writing credit. Alternatively, a learner could use 22750 for their writing credits and then use 22751 for their reading credits.

See: [EAP university entrance literacy](#)

These three Level 4 EAP unit standards can also contribute to the Academic English Language Requirement (AELR) for the University of Auckland.

See: [Academic English Language Requirement](#)

Please see the New Zealand Certificate in English Language (NZCEL) Supporting Document to understand tertiary pathways.

English Language pathways and the New Zealand Certificate in English Language (NZCEL) in the tertiary sector

In the tertiary sector, English Language pathways are through the NZCEL. This diagram links the Common European Framework Reference (CEFR), the International English Language Test System (IELTS), and the NZCEL. Further information about the NZCEL pathway can be found in *The New Zealand Certificate in English Language (NZCEL) Supporting Document*

[NZCEL Progressions Mapped to CEFR and IELTS levels](#)

CEFR equivalent on exit

IELTS equivalent on exit

C1		NZCEL (Advanced) (Level 6)	7.0
high B2			6.5
mid B2			6.0
low B2			5.5
high B1			5.0
mid B1		NZCEL (Level 2)	4.5
A2		NZCEL (Level 1)	
A1		NZCEL (Foundation) (Level 1)	

Mapping the English Language and English for Academic Purposes Unit Standards to the NZCEL graduate profile outcomes

[English Language](#) and [English for Academic Purposes](#) Unit Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening may be used by secondary schools and tertiary providers. Tertiary providers offer [New Zealand Certificates in English Language \(NZCEL\)](#) and are guided by graduate profile outcomes (GPOs). [Download this PDF](#) to view tables that map unit standards to the NZCEL graduate profile outcomes. Achievement of the unit standards may be used as evidence meeting requirements of the NZCEL qualifications.